

TALS-Allotments Policy Issues

Issue #5

Should narrative explanations be required for initial allotments?

Current Policy

The current allotment systems do not support the submittal of comments with allotment data. Narrative explanations are only required by statute for quarterly amendments, and agencies must submit these separately from the allotment data.

Options

	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
Description	Require narrative explanations for certain variances in the initial allotment. System would flag variances between allotment and control numbers that are allowed, with consent of OFM. (OFM control numbers may include revenue estimates, FTE data, nonappropriated assumptions, etc.) The system would warn users that narrative comments should be included.	Make narrative explanations for initial allotments optional.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Provides an automated way for agencies to supply variance information requested by OFM- Makes the submittal edit consistent for both initial allotments and quarterly updates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Doesn't require new workload of agencies
Risks or Consequences	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Edits can add costs to the system project	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- If agencies do not volunteer explanations for these variances, allotment approval is delayed as OFM analysts will have to seek them in a form outside of the system.

	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
Implementation issues	Consider setting some tolerance for the variance before an explanation is required. (For example, 3% or a million dollars.)	
Critical success factors		

Proposed Approach

Alternative 1: Require narrative explanations for initial allotments that explain any significant variances from OFM control numbers or expected patterns. System should flag these conditions and warn agencies that a narrative explanation is expected.

Set some tolerance for the variance before an explanation is required.

Concerns/Comments from Stakeholders